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Improving Metro Mobility...

MORE FLEXIBLE SHOULDER LANES COMING TO GEORGIA 400

ATLANTA – More of the popular rush-hour flexible shoulder lanes are being implemented on Georgia (State Route) 400, Governor Nathan Deal and the Georgia Department of Transportation announced today.

The lanes allow rush-hour commuters to drive on reinforced outside (right) roadway shoulders for limited time periods. Currently, such lanes are in morning use southbound between Holcomb Bridge Road and Northridge Road and between Northridge and the North Springs MARTA Station exit. Beginning this Friday, afternoon flexible shoulder lanes will be available northbound as well between the MARTA Station and Northridge and farther north between State Route 120/Old Milton Parkway and Windward Parkway, officials said.

“Access to an additional lane during the busiest hours on Ga. 400 is not only beneficial to commuters, but it will maximize the use of our existing infrastructure,” said Governor Deal. “We will continue our efforts – big and small – to improve travel conditions on Ga. 400 and all of the freeways serving metro Atlanta.”

The Department began allowing travel in the current southbound shoulder lanes in 2012 after Governor Deal asked it to examine and pursue easy-to-implement and inexpensive steps that could be taken to offer immediate relief to commuters. The lanes were well-received and did provide some congestion relief during GA 400’s most heavy southbound traffic periods; thus, Georgia DOT is expanding the program to other GA 400 segments.

Driving on the new northbound flexible shoulder lanes will be permissible between the hours of 4-6 p.m., Mondays through Fridays only. As with the current southbound shoulder lanes, a 45-mph advisory speed limit will be posted for shoulder lane traffic. Accident or disabled vehicle pull-off sites will be available adjacent to each of the new shoulder lanes.

The Department will open an additional southbound shoulder lane between North Springs MARTA and Abernathy Road later this month or in early November and expects to open another southbound lane between Mansell Road and Holcomb Bridge and a northbound lane between Abernathy and North Springs MARTA in the months to come.

As a reminder to Georgia 400 commuters, driving in southbound flexible shoulder lanes is permissible only between 6:30 a.m., and 10 a.m., and only on weekdays.

The Department urges motorists on this busy corridor – and all Georgia roads – to always drive cautiously, courteously, undistracted and unimpaired.

*Motorists can access real-time, statewide, route-specific information on accidents, road work, traffic and weather conditions through **Georgia 511** - a free phone service and website sponsored by State Farm Insurance. By dialing 511, callers also can transfer to operators 24 hours a day to report incidents or request assistance. The system can be used to access transit providers, major airports, rideshare organizations, tourism information and 511 systems in surrounding states. State Farm also sponsors the Department's Highway Emergency Response Operators (HERO) program. Georgia DOT partners with State Farm and other private concerns in funding 511, thereby preserving tax dollars and helping sustain critical services. For more information about 511, visit 511ga.org. For more information on Georgia DOT, please visit www.dot.ga.gov or subscribe to our Press Release RSS feed. You also may follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT) and Twitter (<http://twitter.com/gadepftoftrans>).*

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